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(54) Title: NEAR INFRARED FLUORESCENT CONTRAST AGENT AND METHOD FOR FLUORESCENCE IMAGING

(57) Abstract: A near infrared fluorescent contrast agent which is excellent in permeability in a living tissue and enables specific imaging of tumor and/or blood vessel, comprising a compound represented by formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^7 , and R^8 represent a C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl group or the like; R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , and R^{12} represent a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, an aryl group or the like; X^1 and X^2 represent a C_1 - C_{15} alkyl group or an aryl group and X^1 and X^2 in total have 0 to 4 carboxyl groups; m^1 , m^2 , and m^3 represents 0 or 1; L^1 to L^7 independently represent a methine group; M^2 represents a hydrogen atom, a metal, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 7 necessary for neutralizing charge.

